DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 391 329 EC 304 578

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TITLE Developing Personal Safety Skills in Children with Disabilities.
REPORT NO ISBN-1-55766-184-7
PUB DATE 95
NOTE 214p.
AVAILABLE FROM Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., P.O. Box 10624, Baltimore, MD 21285-0624 ($34).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Guides - Classroom Use - Teaching Guides (For Teacher) (052)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Assertiveness; Body Image; *Child Abuse; *Curriculum; *Disabilities; Disclosure; Elementary Education; Emotional Development; *Prevention; *Safety Education; Self Care Skills; Self Esteem; *Sexual Abuse; Teaching Methods

ABSTRACT

This guide provides general background information and practical curriculum ideas for teaching children with disabilities personal safety skills in the area of child sexual abuse. Part 1 covers education for child protection (its history, the need addressed, and effective programs); reasons why children with disabilities especially need personal safety skills (such as their greater risk of sexual abuse,); parent participation in personal safety programs (including strategies for maximizing parent participation and answers to common parental questions); curriculum development (including adaptations for children with specific disabilities and underlying principles of any personal safety curriculum); and responding to actual or suspected sexual abuse of children (including managing a child's disclosure of abuse and providing therapy for the victims). Part 2 presents suggested activities, work sheets, and teaching methods for the seven curriculum modules which address development of: (1) self-esteem; (2) assertiveness skills; (3) coping with potential hazards; (4) body image and body awareness; (5) understanding that some body parts are private; (6) awareness of feelings; and (7) talking about these things. Two appendices present suggestions for integrating personal safety into the curriculum and additional reasons for the protection of children with disabilities. (Contains 115 references.) (DB)

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